WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A speech recognition system in which a client and a device that provides a speech recognition process are connected, and which provides a plurality of usable speech recognition means to the client, comprising:

speech input means for inputting speech at the client;

designation means for designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means; and

processing means for making the speech recognition means designated by said designation means recognize speech input from said speech input means.

2.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said designation means comprises:

detection means for detecting designation information used to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means from the speech input by said speech input means, and

said designation means designates one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means on the basis of the designation information detected by said detection means.

3.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said designation means comprises:

GUI input means for designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means via a graphical user interface.

4.   The system according to claim 1, further
comprising:

      a plurality of speech input means equivalent to
said speech input means, and

      wherein said designation means designates one of
the plurality of usable speech recognition means on the
basis of one of said plurality of speech input means,
from which the speech is input.

5.   The system according to claim 1, wherein each of
said plurality of usable speech recognition means is
capable of converting data format of speech input by
said speech input means into a speech data format that
can be recognized by speech recognition processing
when the data format of the speech input by said speech
input means is different from the speech data format.

6.   A speech recognition system in which a client and
a plurality of devices that provide a speech
recognition process are connected, wherein the client
comprises:

      speech input means for inputting speech ; and
      designation means for designating one of the
plurality of speech recognition process,

      and wherein said system comprises processing
means for making a speech recognition process provided
by a device designated by said designation means,
recognize the speech input from said speech input means.

7.   The system according to claim 6, wherein said

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client farther comprises detection means for detecting speech corresponding to designation information used to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means, from the speech input by said speech
5 input means,

wherein said designation means converts the speech detected by said detection means into designation information by using a speech recognition on the client, and designates one of the plurality of
10 said speech recognition means on the basis of the converted designation information.

8.   A client in a speech recognition system to which a device that provides a speech recognition process is connected, and which provides a plurality of usable
15 speech recognition means, comprising:

speech input means for inputting speech ; and

designation means for designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means; and

processing means for making the speech
20 recognition means designated by said designation means recognize speech input from said speech input means.

9.   The client according to claim 8, wherein said designation means comprises:

detection means for detecting designation
25 information used to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means from the speech input by said speech input means, and

said designation means designates one of the
plurality of usable speech recognition means on the
basis of the designation information detected by said
detection means.

5   10.   The client according to claim 9, wherein when
said detection means does not detect any designation
information, said processing means recognizes the
speech input from said speech input means without using
the plurality of speech recognition means.

10   11.   The client according to claim 8, wherein said
designation means comprises:

GUI input means for designating one of the
plurality of usable speech recognition means via a
graphical user interface.

15   12.   The client according to claim 8, further
comprising:

a plurality of speech input means equivalent to
said speech input means, and

wherein said processing means makes predetermined
20   speech recognition means recognize input speech on the
basis of one of said plurality of speech input means,
from which the speech is input.

13.   The client according to claim 8, wherein said
designation means comprises at least one of GUI input
25   means ,

a physical switching instruction input device,
and a device which receives a radio signal from an

external remote controller for designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means.

14.   A server which is connected to a client via a network, and provides a plurality of usable speech recognition means to the client, comprising:

providing means for providing a designation operation environment that allows the client to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition means; and

processing means for making the speech recognition means designated by said providing means recognize speech received via the network.

15.   A speech recognition method in a speech recognition system in which a client and a device that provides a speech recognition process are connected, and which provides a plurality of usable speech recognition steps to the client, comprising:

the speech input step of inputting speech at the client;

the designation step of designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps; and

the processing step of making the speech recognition step designated in the designation step recognize speech input in the speech input step.

16.   The method according to claim 15, wherein the designation step comprises:

the detection step of detecting designation
information used to designate one of the plurality of
usable speech recognition steps from the speech input
in the speech input step, and

5   one of the plurality of usable speech recognition
steps is designated on the basis of the designation
information detected in the detection step.

17.   The method according to claim 15, wherein the
designation step comprises:

10   the GUI input step of designating one of the
plurality of usable speech recognition steps via a
graphical user interface.

18.   The method according to claim 15, further
comprising:

15   a plurality of speech input steps equivalent to
the speech input step, and

wherein said designation step of designating one
of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps on
the basis of one of said plurality of speech input step,

20   from which the speech is input.

19.   The method according to claim 15, wherein each of
said plurality of usable speech recognition step
comprises the step of converting data format of speech
input by said speech input step into a speech data

25   format that can be recognized at speech recognition
step when the data format of the speech input at said
speech input step is different from speech data

format.

20.   A speech recognition method in a speech recognition system in which a client and a plurality of devices that provide a speech recognition process are
5   connected, comprising:

the speech input step of inputting speech ; and

the designation step of designating one of the plurality of speech recognition process,

and wherein said method comprises processing step
10 of making the speech recognition process provided by a device designated by the designation step, recognize speech input from the speech input step.

21.   The method according to claim 20, wherein said client farther comprises the detection step of
15 detecting speech corresponding to designation information used to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps from the speech input at the said speech input step,

wherein the designation step converts the speech
20 detected at the detection step into designation information by using a speech recognition on the client, and designates one of the plurality of said speech recognition step on the basis of the converted designation information.

25 22.   A speech recognition method for a client in a speech recognition system to which a device that provides a speech recognition process is connected, and

which provides a plurality of usable speech recognition steps, comprising:

the speech input step of inputting a speech ;

the designation step of designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps; and

the processing step of making the speech recognition steps designated in the designation step recognize speech input in the speech input step.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the designation step comprises:

the detection step of detecting designation information used to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps from the speech input in the speech input step, and

one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps is designated on the basis of the designation information detected in the detection step.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the processing step includes the step of recognizing, when no designation information is detected in the detection step, the speech input in the speech input step without using the plurality of speech recognition steps.

25. The method according to claim 22, wherein the designation step comprises:

the GUI input step of designating one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps via a graphical user interface.

26.   The method according to claim 22, further comprising:

a plurality of speech input steps equivalent to the speech input step, and

5   wherein the processing step includes the step of making predetermined speech recognition means recognize input speech on the basis of one of the plurality of speech input steps, from which the speech is input.

27.   The method according to claim 22, wherein, in the 10 designation step,

at least one of GUI input means,

a physical switching instruction input means, and

a means which receives a radio signal from an external remote controller is used for designating one 15 of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps.

28.   A speech recognition method for a server which is connected to a client via a network, and provides a plurality of usable speech recognition steps to the client, comprising:

20   the providing step of providing a designation operation environment that allows the client to designate one of the plurality of usable speech recognition steps; and

the processing step of making the speech 25 recognition steps designated in the providing step recognize speech received via the network.

29.   A storage medium that stores a control program

for making a computer implement a speech recognition method cited in claim 22.

30.   A storage medium that stores a control program for making a computer implement a speech recognition method cited in claim 28.

31.   A control program for making a computer implement a speech recognition method cited in claim 22.

32.   A control program for making a computer implement a speech recognition method cited in claim 28.